

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.111 and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,937,307 (*Ito et al*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,404,469 (*Kitagawa et al*). Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

As discussed in the Amendment previously filed on June 22, 2006, Applicant submits that the claimed polarizing plate can provide surprising and unexpected results, for example, in the form of minimizing or eliminating the light leakage of the liquid crystal display, while maintaining sufficient polarizing performance. As discussed in the instant specification at page 7, employing the claimed polarizing plate comprising a polarizer having a thickness of 10 to 25 μm can result in the minimization or elimination of light leakage of the liquid crystal display, while maintaining sufficient polarizing performance.¹

The experimental data set forth at pages 32-44 of the instant specification exemplifies the surprising and unexpected nature of the claimed polarizing plate. In this regard, in Examples 3 and 4 prepared in accordance with the claimed invention, no light leakage was found in the display screen of the liquid crystal displays (specification at pages 42 and 44). By comparison, in Comparative Example 1, framelike leakage was observed in the display screen.

Comparative Example 1 employed a polarizer at the backside of the liquid crystal display having a thickness of about 28 μm , which is outside the claimed range of 10 to 25

¹ Applicant notes that the Amendment previously filed on June 22, 2006, contains an obvious clerical error, wherein the term "about 28 μm " at page 8, line 16, should read "10 to 25 μm ."

μm . In this regard, the attached Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 of Yoji Ito (hereinafter "Declaration") sets forth an experiment which shows that the thickness of the polarizer employed in Comparative Example 1 was about 28 μm . Thus, the surprising and unexpected nature of the claimed invention is clear in view of the experimental results set forth in the instant specification, taken in connection with the Declaration.

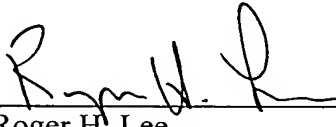
For at least the above reasons, it is apparent that the claims are not obvious over the combination of *Ito et al* and *Kitagawa et al*. Accordingly, withdrawal of the above §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 11, 2006

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